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CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~[[1]]~~~~[[8]]~~, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the chrominance information of the block.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~[[1]]~~~~[[8]]~~, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the contrast of the block.
4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~[[1]]~~~~[[8]]~~, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the level of detail within the block.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~[[1]]~~~~[[8]]~~, wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the desired bit rate.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~[[1]]~~~~[[8]]~~, wherein dividing further comprises separating the digital image into Y, C_b and C_r components.
8. (Previously Presented) A method of decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method of comprising:
dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (*m*) and rows (*n*),
decimating further comprising:

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filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, weighting column $m-1$ 25%, weighting column m 50%, and weighting column $m+1$ filtering further comprises 25%; and

decimating, selectively, certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 8, further comprising:
filtering each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, filtering further comprises weighting row $n-1$ 25%, weighting row n 50%, and weighting row $n+1$ 25%.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~[[4]]~~[[8]], further comprising converting the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[44]]~~[[18]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the chrominance information of the block.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[44]]~~[[18]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the contrast of the block.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[44]]~~[[18]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the level of detail within the block.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[44]]~~[[18]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the desired bit rate.

16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[41]]~~[[18]], wherein means for dividing further comprises means for separating the digital image into Y, C_b and C_r components.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the apparatus comprising:

means for dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks; wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n), means for decimating further comprising:

means for filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, means for filtering further comprises means for weighting column $m-1$ 25%, column m 50%, and column $m+1$ 25%; and

means for selectively decimating certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria.

19. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 18, means for decimating further comprising:

means for filtering each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, means for filtering further comprises means for weighting row $n-1$ 25%, row n 50%, and row $n+1$ 25%.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[41]]~~[[18]], further comprising means for converting the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[24]]~~[[28]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the chrominance information of the block.

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23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[24]]~~[[28]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the contrast of the block.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[24]]~~[[28]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the level of detail within the block.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[24]]~~[[28]], wherein the predetermined criteria is a function of the desired bit rate.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[24]]~~[[28]], wherein the divider further comprises a separator, the separator configured to separate the digital image into Y, C_b and C_r components.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for decimation of a digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

a divider configured to divide the digital image into a plurality of blocks wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of elements within a plurality of columns (m) and rows (n); and

a decimator configured to selectively decimate certain ones of the blocks based upon predetermined criteria; the decimator comprises a filter configured to filter each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, the filter further comprises a weighter configured to weight column $m-1$ 25%, column m 50%; and column $m+1$ 25%.

29. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the filter is further configured to filter each element of each row of the block, where given an n^{th} column, the weighter is further configured to weight row $n-1$ 25%, row n 50%, and row $n+1$ 25%.

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30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~[[24]]~~[[28]], further comprising a converter configured to convert the digital image from pixel representation to frequency representation.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of converting a 4:4:4 digital image into a 4:2:2 digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:
dividing the digital image into a plurality of blocks, wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of columns (m), each column m comprising a plurality of elements; and
selectively filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, filtering further comprising weighting column $m-1$ 25%; weighting column m 50%; and weighting column $m+1$ 25%.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A method of converting a 4:4:4 digital image into a 4:2:2 digital image, the digital image represented by a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:
separating the digital image into Y, C_b and C_r components;
dividing the C_b and C_r components into a plurality of blocks utilizing adaptive block size discrete cosine transforms (ABSDCT), wherein each block may be represented as a plurality of columns (m), each column m comprising a plurality of elements; and
selectively filtering each element of each column of the block, where given an m^{th} column, the step of filtering further comprises:
weighting column $m-1$ 25%;
weighting column m 50%; and
weighting column $m+1$ 25%.